

Wing's finest represented at annual awards banquet

Forty-one outstanding military and civilian employees from the 49th Fighter Wing were honored at the wing's annual awards banquet Feb. 19 at the Oasis Enlisted Club. The nominees were:

Airman

Airman 1st Class Lourie Dimery	49th Fighter Wing Command Post
Senior Airman Roy Cruz	49th Operations Support Squadron
Senior Airman John Christenson	49th Materiel Maintenance Squadron
Senior Airman Matthew Decker	49th Security Forces Squadron
Senior Airman Lucner Lucate	49th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron
Senior Airman Mohammad Saleem	49th Maintenance Squadron

NCO

Tech. Sgt. Michael Boy	49th Materiel Maintenance Support Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Campanelli	49th Operations Group
Tech. Sgt. William Chestnut	49th Maintenance Operations Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud	49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Miranda	49th Security Forces Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Paula Schubele	49th Medical Operations Squadron

Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Karen Gandy	49th Comptroller Squadron
Master Sgt. Martin Lara	49th Materiel Maintenance Support Squadron
Master Sgt. James Ordway	49th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Master Sgt. Steven Powell	49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Master Sgt. Brian Salley	49th Medical Group
Senior Master Sgt. Scott Bagget	49th Operation Support Squadron

Company Grade Officer

1st Lt. Jeremy Pankoski	49th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Capt. Elbert Coleman Jr.	49th Fighter Wing
Capt. William Fry	49th Operation Support Squadron
Capt. Steven Gibson	49th Materiel Maintenance Support Squadron
Capt. Brian Moore	49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Capt. Danny Roper	49th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

First Sergeant

Master Sgt. Douglas Delashmit	49th Materiel Maintenance Support Squadron
Master Sgt. James Fry	49th Maintenance Squadron
Master Sgt. Steven Jones	49th Operations Group
Master Sgt. Raymond Munger	49th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Civilian -- GS-07 and below

Ms. Abby Bernier	49th Services Squadron
Ms. Lori Brockmeyer	49th Comptroller Squadron
Mrs. Gena Kaley	7th Combat Training Squadron
Mr. Orlo Parker	49th Maintenance Operations Squadron
Mrs. Lou Ann Samuels	49th Medical Operations Squadron
Mrs. Sheri Thomas	49th Materiel Maintenance Support Squadron

Civilian -- GS-08 and above

Mr. Robert Cahill	49th Maintenance Squadron
Mr. Robert Coward	49th Materiel Maintenance Group
Ms. Donna Cyr	49th Medical Support Squadron
Mrs. Lee Matthews	49th Fighter Wing Manpower
Mr. Ross Mitchell	20th Fighter Squadron
Ms. Sally Walton	49th Contracting Squadron

49th Fighter Wing honors top performers

Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Mohammad Saleem

The 49th Fighter Wing Airman of the Year is Senior Airman Mohammad Saleem, 49th Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment journeyman.

Airman Saleem is a top-notch performer and is ranked first out of the 579 airmen assigned to his squadron. He completed over 1,900 inspections and 210 maintenance actions. He was a key factor to eight AGE team's 97 percent in-commission rate.

In addition to high-caliber work on the job, he also excelled in training and education. Airman Saleem completed the Train the Trainer Course, earned 12 credits toward his Community College of the Air Force degree, finished field training detachment, and attended a Supervisor Safety and Defensive Driver's Course.



NCO of the Year

Tech. Sgt. William Chestnut

The 49th Fighter Wing Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Tech. Sgt. William Chestnut, 49th Maintenance Operations Squadron Engine Management Element NCO in charge.

Sergeant Chestnut is a superstar NCO. He identified Naval Depot and Palmdale engine forecast errors, corrected data and saved \$4.2 million for fiscal year 2005. He also revamped the deployed engine monitor program and developed new policies which eased reporting requirement by one third. Sergeant Chestnut implemented a new web-based training program that reduced section training by 10 percent. These new procedures contributed to a 99.3 percent test cell pass rate.

Sergeant Chestnut also devotes off-duty time to giving back to the community. He volunteers in Alamogordo's Meals-on-Wheels program. He also donates time to visiting veterans in a VA hospital.

The 49th Fighter Wing commander handpicked him to fill the wing's protocol NCO in charge position.



Civilian of the Year -- GS-08 and above

Mr. Robert Coward

The 49th Fighter Wing Civilian of the Year GS-08 and above is Mr. Robert Coward Jr., 49th Materiel Maintenance Squadron engineering and technical advisor.

Mr. Coward led a five-person deployment to Akrotiri, Cypress directly supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is dedicated to ensuring only most effective equipment is fielded to meet the challenges of tomorrow's Air Force. He provided comprehensive insight and technical input. He professionally voiced user concerns to leadership and influenced crucial changes to system architecture, which saved \$10 million and averted 15 years of logistic, deployment and operational interface show stoppers. Mr. Coward served as the 49th MMG's lead advisor during reconstitution efforts on unique counter drug housekeeping assets for Joint Task Force Six.

In addition to his work at the 49th MMS, he also volunteers in the Big Brother program in the local community. He also served on the board of directors for Children in Need services, a local United Way service agency. He was directly involved in fund-raising activities and yielded a 100 percent increase in contributions in the last five years.

Mr. Coward is battlefield tested and technically gifted; he's a leader in his field.



Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Steven Powell

The 49th Fighter Wing Senior NCO of the Year is Master Sgt. Steven Powell, 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Specialist Section chief.

Sergeant Powell is a leader and a mentor for 45 personnel from three different Air Force Specialty Codes. The team supports maintenance for 21 F-117A Nighthawks. He also supported three operations, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Southern Watch. During the operations he led the generation of 356 combat and training sorties and 868 flying hours. Sergeant Powell devised a deployed maintenance flow plan, which was key to completion of over 400 maintenance actions.

While a strong leader at work, he also leads off duty. He's a Sunday school teacher and a spiritual role model for juniors. He also donated time and work to Habitat for Humanity building a house for a family in the Alamogordo community.

He also completed nine semester hours toward a double master's degree in science, and safety and management.



First Sergeant of the Year

Master Sgt. James Fry

The 49th Fighter Wing First Sergeant of the Year is Master Sgt. James Fry, 49th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.

Sergeant Fry is a proactive leader; he developed a monthly commander quality force review which provided senior leadership visibility of personnel at risk. He addressed and resolved issues before they escalated. He led the charge to develop a solid plan for squadron integrity in Holloman's dormitories. The squadron completed more than 400 moves in less than six months. The moves cost \$8,800 and saved almost \$42,000 in dorm improvements.

Sergeant Fry represented the 49th Fighter Wing at the Worldwide First Sergeants Conference. He gained and shared valuable insight on current Air Force issues. This first sergeant is a creative problem solver. Despite deployments and long hours, he allowed New Mexico State University to educate airmen in security forces facilities.



Company Grade Officer of the Year

Capt. Brian Moore

The 49th Fighter Wing Company Grade Officer of the Year is Capt. Brian Moore, 9th Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge.

Captain Moore pioneered local reconditioning of radar absorbent shredding blades. This averted three weeks of downtime and saved the wing more than \$50,000. He was chosen to lead the enroute maintenance team during redeployment of 12 F-117A Nighthawks that returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom. Captain Moore also orchestrated an F-117A Airshow Team that delivered maintenance support for 73 airshows for more than five million people. The 9th AMU enabled the wing to execute 11,664 sorties and 18,754 flying hours for 2003.

Captain Moore didn't stop at a master's degree, he also enrolled in Warfighting Skills Program to learn how other services prepare junior officers.



Civilian of the Year -- GS-07 and below

Mrs. Gena Kaley

The 49th Fighter Wing Civilian of the Year GS-07 and below is Mrs. Gena Kaley, 7th Combat Training Squadron secretary.

Mrs. Kaley's organizational skills make her invaluable to the 7th CTS, the wing's busiest flying unit. She provided meticulous tracking and filing of contract work, which enhanced the Quality Assurance evaluator's ability to surveil contracts valued at more than \$15 million, which is the largest Air Combat Command Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance requirement. She aggressively worked with the 49th Operations Group Resource Advisor to allocate a \$104,000 squadron budget to functional areas. Mrs. Kaley is an innovative problem solver. She developed weekly staff meeting slides and increased communication flow. She also volunteered more than 200 hours to the Fitness and Sports center as an indoor cycling instructor.

